



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2022

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Mayorkas:

Thank you for your efforts to designate Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) on March 8, 2021. This decision has positively impacted the lives of over 200,000 Venezuelans who were able to apply for TPS in FY2021. With this designation set to expire in September 2022, and the deadline to redesignate occurring 60 days before the expiration, we urge your full and fair consideration of redesignating Venezuela for TPS and moving the required arrival date forward to December 31, 2021.

Political instability caused by Maduro's authoritarian regime has led to massive food and medicine shortages, 94% of the population living in poverty, 60% of the population is suffering from food insecurity and the country's economy is crippled. Venezuela's economy has contracted by more than 74% since 2014 which is more than twice the magnitude of the Great Depression in the United States. Venezuela has also experienced some of the highest homicide and crime victimization rates in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, food and medicine shortages have led to increased infant and maternal mortality rates, and the return of previous eradicated diseases such as diphtheria and measles. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this humanitarian crisis and has led to thousands of deaths.

Due to the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, Venezuelans have consistently been the leading nationality requesting asylum in the United States since 2016. As of November 2021, U.N. agencies believe that over 6 million Venezuelans have fled the country. The number of displaced individuals from Venezuela only continues to grow.

Given the grave conditions in Venezuela, and within all applicable rules and regulations, we strongly urge your full and fair consideration of an extension and redesignation of Venezuela for TPS. We also ask that you move the required arrival date forward to December 31, 2021 to continue to provide safety and support to Venezuelans fleeing the political, economic and humanitarian crisis currently plaguing their home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor

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Member of Congress

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Charlie Crist
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Member of Congress



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